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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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October 26, 1987

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EIU TO HOST METROPOLITAN OPERA TALENT SEARCH

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University will host the 19th annual Metropolitan Opera Central District talent search Saturday, Oct. 31 in Dvorak Concert Hall in the EIU Fine Arts Center.

The public is invited to attend the auditions without charge, as young and promising singers vie for the opportunity to proceed to the Metropolitan Opera Regional Auditions in Chicago Nov. 16.

Auditions will begin at 12:30 p.m., continuing until approximately 4 p.m.

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The first-place winner will compete against 25 other nation-wide winners in the national semi-finals in March, 1988. After two weeks of intensive study with some of the nation's best-known teachers, 12 finalists will be chosen as winners and will be presented in a concert of opera arias and duets on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center in New York, N.Y. Each winner also will receive \$5,000 cash award for use in further study.

Auditions at EIU will be followed later that night with an Awards Banquet at "Boomer's with a Twist" in Charleston. Dinner reservations may be made by calling Frances Daniels at 348-5658. Persons wanting to make donations to aid the young singers may contact Jerry Daniels, EIU Department of Music, at 581-3010.

Judges for the EIU tryouts will be Ethel Smith, former professor of voice at Indiana University; Robert Eckert, professor of voice at University of Iowa; and Marion Hall, professor of voice at Drake University in Iowa.

The EIU auditions are being sponsored by the EIU Department of Music, the Alumnae chapter, and the Epsilon Eta chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota fraternity.